

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 3, 4, 8-10, and 12 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A search support device, implemented on a client computer, in which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network is registered, the device comprising:

    a search unit that determines a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu; and

    a registration unit that registers an address in the hierachal category,

    wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

    wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

2. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration unit registers the address designated for registration in the category containing the registered address when located at the same level as the address designated for registration.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search support method, implemented on a client computer, by which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

    determining a hierarchical category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu; and

    registering an address in the hierachal category, wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a

keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the-a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search support device, implemented on a client computer, in which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the information, the device comprising:

a category menu storage unit that stores a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up; and

a search information generating unit that generates search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the-a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

5. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

a display unit that displays an address in another form indicating the location of desired information detected based on the search information generated by the search information generating unit; and

an address registration unit that registers the address in the category menu when the address indicates information that can be accessed.

6. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an address selection unit that selects the address registered in the category menu so as to make an access to the location of the desired information.

7. (ORIGINAL) The search support device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising an icon conversion unit that visually changes the category in which the address is registered by the address registration unit.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A search support method, implemented on a client computer, by which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the desired information, the method comprising:

storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up; and

generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the-a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that registered an address indicating a location of accessible information on a network, the program comprising:

a procedure for classifying the address in accordance with a hierarchical category related to information that can be accessed at the address; and

a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the hierarchical category,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the-a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper

level category.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device, implemented on a client computer, that requests a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a desired network based on search information associated with the desired information, the program comprising:

a procedure for storing a category menu in which predetermined hierarchical categories are listed up; and

a procedure for generating search information associated with a hierarchical category selected from the category menu,

wherein predetermined search information is registered for each category, which predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network, and

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the-a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.

11. (ORIGINAL) The recording medium as claimed in claim 10, wherein the program further includes a procedure for generating the category menu.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method, implemented on a client computer, for searching for an address of desired information on a network based on search information associated with the desired information, the method comprising:

registering predetermined search information used as a keyword for searching for the address of the desired information on the network for each of a plurality of hierarchical categories into which information is classified; and

searching for the address of the desired information based on the registered predetermined search information when a hierarchical category is selected,

wherein, when a new keyword is searched for by using a combination of a plurality of upper level keywords, the-a registration unit generates a lower level category corresponding to the new keyword, and registers the lower level category in a manner to be linked to an upper level category.